

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 IGA-01 AGR-10 /072 W

----- 071553

R 170824Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5016

INFO CINCPAC

JCS

NSD GUAM

SECDEF

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

COMSEVENTHFLT

CTG 77.7

USS CAMDEN

USS ENTERPRISE

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 0110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, MP

SUBJECT: MAURITIAN REACTION TO US RELIEF OPERATIONS

1. PUBLIC AND PRESS REACTION TO US AID EFFORT FOLLOWING CYCLONE GERVAISE LARGELY HAS BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE. THE RADIO, TV AND PRESS, WHEN THOSE MEDIA BEGAN TO FUNCTION AGAIN HAVE CARRIED FULL INFORMATION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY CREWS OF THE USS CAMDEN AND USS ENTERPRISE. FOLLOWING KEY OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN VIRTUALLY ALL REPORTS:

A. HELICOPTER SURVEY TRIPS TO ASSESS DAMAGE.

B. REPAIRS TO ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE LINES.

C. HELO LIFT OF LENGTHS OF 27" WATER PIPE INTO DEEP GORGE FOR

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REPAIR OF WATER MAIN TO PORT LOUIS.

D. WORK CREWS RESTORED ROOFS AT CIVIL HOSPITAL, PORT LOUIS.

E. 80 BLOOD DONORS AT CIVIL HOSPITAL, CANDOS HOSPITAL AND SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM HOSPITAL.

F. GIFT OF 1,000# OF BREAD AND MILK POWDER FOR 8,000 GALLONS OF MILK.

G. CLEARING OF ROADS BLOCKED BY HUGE BANYAN TREES.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY HAS BEEN LAUDATORY. L'EXPRESS, INDEPENDENT PAPER WITH THE WIDEST CIRCULATION, FEBRUARY 12, WROTE, "THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO TRANSLATE ITS PROMISES FOR AID INTO REALITY." FEBRUARY 13 L'EXPRESS TITLED ITS ARTICLE DISCUSSING THE PROJECTS PERFORMED BY THE NAVY, "THANK YOU CAMDEN". LE CERNEED, EXTENSIVELY REPORTED THE AMERICAN RELIEF EFFORT WRITING, "BIG E IS REPLACING USS CAMDEN WHICH CAME TO OUR AID A FEW HOURS AFTER PASSAGE OF GERVAISE." LE MAURICIEN, COMMENTED THAT, "FOREIGN AID WAS SOLICITED: THE AMERICANS WERE THE FIRST TO RESPOND." LIBERATION, NOTED THAT "THE AMERICAN TECHNICAINS HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE HELP TO MAURITIUS AFTER THE RAVAGES OF GERVAISE. MAURITIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO APPRECIATE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE AMERICAN

CREWS. THE USS CAMDEN CARRIES WITH IT THE GRATITUDE OF THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT." LE POPULAIRE, OPPOSITION PMSD PRESS ORGAN, ALLUDED TO THE RECENT TELEVISION DISCUSSION ON DIEGO AND WROTE THAT AFTER ACCUSING THE AMERICANS OF BEING "KILLERS AND INTERNATIONAL GANGSTERS",

THE AUTHORITIES APPEALED TO THE AMERICAN NAVY TO BRING RELIEF. AFTER ARRIVAL OF THE ENTERPRISE THE PAPER COMMENTED THAT "THE 5,500 MEN ON BOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE ARE CONTINUING THE EXCELLENT WORK

UNDERTAKEN BY THE CAMDEN CREW. THESE MEN HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT TO AID THE MAURITIAN POPULATION, STILL UNDER THE SHOCK OF GERVAISE." THE NATION, GO-FOUNDED BY MINISTER JAGATSINGH, CHAIRMAN OF MAURITIUS NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL, HAS CARRIED ONLY BRIEF FACTUAL MENTION OF VARIOUS RELIEF PROJECTS. ADVANCE, MLP PAPER, NOTED THE EXCELLENT WORK DONE BY THE MEN FROM THE CAMDEN. ADVANCE, AS MOST OTHER PAPERS CARRIED THE MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY SENT BY PRESI-  
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DENT FORD TO THE PRIME MINISTER ALONG WITH OTHER MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY RECEIVED SO FAR.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NATION, ALL OTHER DAILIES, RADIO AND TV, GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE ENTERPRISE AND PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY AMBASSADOR MANHARD AND ADMIRAL HARRIS ABOARD SHIP THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 13.

4. MEANWHILE PERSONAL EXPRESSIONS, MOSTLY ORAL, OF WARM GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION FOR SPEED AND GENEROSITY FOR US RELIEF EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY BY CAMDEN AND ENTERPRISE, HAVE BEEN POURING IN TO EMBASSY FROM MAURITIANS OF NEARLY ALL WALKS OF LIFE. ALL MAURITIANS WHO HAVE WITNESSED SHIPS' RELIEF PROJECTS ASHORE HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED BY SERIOUSNESS AND HARD WORK OF ALL NAVY PERSONNEL INVOLVED.  
MANHARD

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## Message Attributes

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